

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00

DLOS-04 SAL-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 IO-11 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/073 W

----- 039153

R 040455Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5292

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0810

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, MR, KS

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN FISHING INTEREST IN MAURITANIAN WATERS

REF: STATE 22115 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFFS RAISED ISSUE OF INDISCRETION OF KOREAN FISHERMEN REGARDING THEIR OPERATIONS IN MAURITANIA WATERS WITH APPROPRIATE MOFA OFFICERS ON JANUARY 30 AND HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ROK OFFICE OF FISHERIES AND THE INDUSTRY HAS IN TURN BEEN APPRISED OF RISK OF LOSS OF ACCESS TO AREA AND SEIZURES OF ROK VESSELS.

2. MOFA REPS STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF FISHING OFF MAURITANIA WAS ONE WHICH ROKG LEAVES TO THE FISHING COMPANIES INVOLVED TO DEAL WITH AS BEST THEY CAN. PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED BECAUSE KOREAN VESSELS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN UNDER FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE.

3. OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAURITANIA THAT ITS 30-MILE WIDE CLOSED FISHING ZONE  
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IS NOW EXTENDED ALONG THE SHORELINE OF THAT PORTION OF

SPANISH SAHARA CEDED TO IT BY SPAIN AS FAR AS THE NEW  
BOUNDARY WITH MOROCCO. MOFA OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THAT  
THE AREA IN QUESTION HAS BEEN THE AREA OF RICHEST  
RESOURCES AND PRIME INTEREST TO KOREAN FISHERMEN.  
INASMUCH AS THE ROK IS WITHOUT INFLUENCE IN MAURITANIA  
IT HAS BEEN TO ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE ITS  
OPERATIONS IN MAURITANIAN AND NOW FORMER SPANISH SAHARAN  
WATERS. AT THE SAME TIME THE ROKG WILL EXPLORE ANY  
POSSIBILITIES OF ASSISTING ITS FISHERMEN.

4. RFA CASABLANCA MAY EXPECT LOCAL ROKG REPRESENTATIVE  
INQUIRIES FOR GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

5. SINCE 1975 ROKG HAS ATTEMPTED TO ANTICIPATE ACTIONS  
SUCH AS THAT BY MAURITANIA BY SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE  
FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH MORE THAN 25 COUNTRIES INCLUDING  
MOROCCO WHICH CLAIMED A 70-MILE OFFSHORE RESOURCE  
ZONE APPARENTLY NOT YET EXTENDED TO ITS SHARE OF FORMER  
SPANISH SAHARA.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHING RIGHTS, FISHERIES, TERRITORIAL WATERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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